

Remarks

Claims 1 and 4-25 are pending in the present application after entry of this Amendment After Final. Claims 1-24 are rejected. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 25 is newly added. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMorrow et al. (U.S. Patent 6,569,097 B1), hereafter McMorrow, in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 5,492,125), hereafter Kim. Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMorrow in view of Examiner's Office Notice. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reasons set forth hereafter.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a method for managing ultrasound examination information that includes, in part "generating separate outputs based upon the electronic notification, wherein the outputs comprise billing statements that are automatically generated based upon one or more criteria including a type of scan, a doctor ordering the ultrasound scan and an insurance company to be billed for the ultrasound scan." Applicants submit the cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed method.

In particular, McMorrow discloses a system wherein after results are made available to a user, a customer relationship management accounting server creates a billing for a user's account. Nothing in McMorrow describes generating separate accounts, particularly based on different criteria as recited in claim 1. McMorrow only teaches creating a billing based on a contact between the user and the system owner. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to recite a method for managing ultrasound examination information that includes, in part "generating an output based upon (i) a notification

of an update or change to a scheduled ultrasound scan to be performed as part of the one or more ultrasound scans and (ii) a received completion signal that at least one of the one or more ultrasound scans is complete, the output corresponding to the ultrasound examination information and the update or change notification, and provided remote from an ultrasound system used to perform the ultrasound examination.” Applicants submit the cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed method.

In particular, McMorow discloses a system wherein a complete history of scans may be maintained to provide an indication of changes in the images, for example, of the progression or growth of an aneurysm. However, McMorow does not teach a notification of an update or change to a scheduled ultrasound scan to be performed as claimed. In McMorow, the indication is of changes to a physical attribute of an imaged patient, and not of a change or update to a particular scan to be performed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 14 is allowable.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to recite a user interface for an ultrasound system that includes, in part “a menu portion for receiving a user input indicating the completion of at least one ultrasound scan, a completion signal transmitted based upon the user input and used by a remote system for generating an output based upon ultrasound examination information, wherein the output comprises a billing statement related to the completed ultrasound scan and at least one of a hospital report, a patient scheduling list, a technician scheduling list or a technician time sheet.” Applicants submit the cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed user interface.

In particular, McMorow discloses a system wherein a billing may be created. However, McMorow and the other cited references do not teach or suggest generating any other types of reports, such as the claimed hospital report, patient scheduling list, technician scheduling list or a technician time sheet. These reports in addition to the billing statements that are generated based

on a completion signal are not taught or suggested in McMorrow. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 21 is allowable.

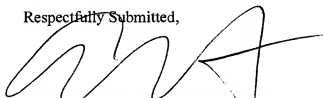
Applicants also submit that Kim and the other cited references fail to make up for the deficiencies in McMorrow.

Additionally, Applicants submit that dependent claim 4-13, 15-20, 22-24 and newly added claim 25 recite subject matter not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. Moreover, dependent claims 4-13, 15-20 and 22-25 are allowable based at least on the dependency of these claims from the independent claims.

Furthermore, there may be additional reasons other than those discussed herein or herebefore that claims 1 and 4-25 are each patentable over the cited references. Without waiver of such additional reasons, Applicants reserve the right to argue such reasons hereafter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references neither anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention and the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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